

typically dictate security decisions, essential discussions on the proper balance between national security, individual rights and the freedoms enjoyed in an open society have been repeatedly deferred.

My bill would ensure that this long overdue discussion takes place in a public forum with experts drawn from across the spectrum. To date, security planning has been delegated almost exclusively to security, intelligence and military experts. Although their input is indispensable, they cannot be expected to accurately consider the externalities that lie outside of their expertise. To strike a better balance that gives sufficient importance to our democratic traditions, we need to invite experts from diverse fields to the same table to work together. Therefore, the commission would be composed not only of security, intelligence and military experts, but also experts from such fields as business, architecture, technology, law, city planning, art, engineering, philosophy, history, sociology and psychology.

We have used commissions before to deeply investigate and address unprecedented challenges, such as the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (also known as the 9/11 Commission), the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction (also known as the Silberman Robb Commission) and the Kerner Commission following riots that swept American cities in the 1960s. The commission created by this bill would seek to avert a crisis in basic freedoms before their infringement becomes entrenched. We cannot allow security protocols to proliferate without informed civilian oversight and a thorough analysis of alternatives that might better safeguard freedom and commerce.

Furthermore, we have had decades to develop strategies and technologies for smarter security that can fulfill the responsibility of safety without depriving our citizens of access to institutions and personal liberty. Thus far, we have either relied on imprecise medieval approaches like crude barriers or on over-expansive new technologies that treat privacy like a privilege instead of a right. We can, and must, do better.

As the home of our federal government, the District of Columbia's residents have suffered a disproportionate infringement on public spaces, personal rights and freedoms in the name of security. Public spaces that serve as the heart of our local communities have become restricted zones characterized by a heavy security presence, with individuals liable to be reprimanded for walking on the wrong side of the street or marveling too long at the architecture. Barriers such as walls and fences are touted as essential security features while our citizens are left peering at their democracy from a distance.

Security is not only about reducing lives lost and dollars cost. It is also about safeguarding the institutions, freedoms and values that anchor our country, not only for ourselves but for future generations. The social compact between government and the people should not be the result of a series of hostage negotiations. We must resume reasoned and deliberative decision-making, beginning with a high-level commission composed of experts from diverse disciplines charged with developing a new course that will protect both our people and our precious democratic institutions and traditions.

## IN RECOGNITION OF THE DENTON RYAN FOOTBALL TEAM

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2021*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding performance of Denton ISD's Ryan High School Football Team, the Ryan Raiders, during the 2020 football season.

In the past year, the team's prowess and exceptional diligence led them to an undefeated season, culminating in a victory at the Conference 5A Division 1 Championship on January 15, 2021. After facing an intense series of preliminary games, the Ryan Raiders finally secured the state title in their game against Cedar Park at Arlington's AT&T stadium.

Led by head coach Dave Henigan, Defensive MVP Ty Marsh, and Offensive MVP Seth Henigan, the team attained its first state championship victory since 2002. The exemplary commitment, teamwork, and effort displayed by the players, coaches, and coordinators of the Ryan Raiders earned them the state title.

The coaches and players of the Ryan High School Football Team overcame pressures and challenges amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully achieved the pinnacle of their season. I am privileged to join their community, family and friends in celebrating their achievement and to recognize each and every one of them for their laudable devotion to their team and their sport. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

## HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF CHIEF MICHAEL SURPRENANT

### HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2021*

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker I rise today to honor the career of a consummate public servant—Chief Michael Surprenant of the Plainfield Police Department. A dedicated law enforcement officer, Chief Surprenant has served the town of Plainfield and the 2nd Congressional District for over two decades. His tenure as Chief began in 2012 replacing Robert Hoffman, another role model of public service. His character, dedication to the department, and unwavering professionalism made him an ideal candidate for the role.

Over the past nine years, Michael has ushered in a new era for the department. Not only fighting for the safety and wellbeing of so many in his town, but fighting for the betterment of the department, making sure our first responders, who put their lives on the line every day, are given the encouragement and equipment they are rightfully due. Michael has always put his officers before himself and as leader of the force has never had an officer sustain a serious injury or fatality—a record for which he should be truly proud. Working as an officer through some of the most perilous moments in our nation's history—9/11, Sandy Hook, and other domestic incidents—Michael

has remained steadfast and composed in ensuring that the department was trained and prepared to tackle various threats at a moment's notice.

With Michael's years of experience as a patrol officer, deputy chief, graduate of the FBI's National Academy, and recipient of the Medal of Excellence—Michael has been a beacon of wisdom within the department. Michael has strived to be a police chief that prioritized the wellbeing and safety of his residents above all else and has gone above and beyond to ensure that the department had the resources it needed. Michael has served as a role model for his fellow officers and has truly led by example, and I am certain that his civic dedication will continue into the next chapter of his life.

While Michael's retirement is bittersweet, we know that he has groomed only the best to take his place. Madam Speaker, fellow colleagues—I ask you to join me in honoring Michael's 25 years of service to the State of Connecticut and our nation, and in wishing him, his wife Kristyn, and their twin boys Jefferey and Luke—a safe and happy future.

## IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE HONORABLE JUDGE PRESTON'S RETIREMENT

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 3, 2021*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of the Honorable Vernon L. Preston, Ohio Third District Court of Appeals Judge, and recognize the outstanding work he has done for the State of Ohio. On February 8, 2021, Judge Preston will be retiring after twenty-seven years of distinguished judicial service. His hard work and continued dedication to uphold the law and the Constitution is an example for all.

Judge Preston was born and raised in Findlay, Ohio. After attending Findlay High School and the University of Findlay, he proudly served on active duty in the United States Navy for six years. He retired with the rank of Captain in 2003 after serving twenty-five additional years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.

In 1980, Judge Preston graduated with a law degree from the University of Toledo. Upon graduation from law school, he opened a law practice in Portsmouth, Ohio. As a private practice attorney, he specialized in administrative and insurance law representing both individuals and business clients. Later, Judge Preston returned to Findlay where he served in a series of public service positions including Magistrate for the Findlay Municipal Court, Assistant Hancock County Prosecutor, and Assistant Findlay City Prosecutor. Before his appointment to the Third Court of Appeals in 2007, Judge Preston served on the Findlay Municipal Court Bench for thirteen years. In addition to his full-time schedule as a judge, he was an Adjunct Professor of Equine Law at the University of Findlay.

Judge Preston's work has had a lasting influence on our judicial system and a significant impact on his community. The citizens of Fifth District of Ohio join me in congratulating the Honorable Vernon Preston for his service to Ohio and our nation.